



PRESS RELEASE

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Commission Awards \$594,924 Grant to Pitzer College and Manual Arts High School to Improve Instruction

January 2004 --- Pitzer College will receive a three-year grant of \$594,924 in federal monies that have been earmarked for improving the quality of teaching. Partnering with Claremont Graduate University and Manual Arts High School, this project is designed to create a professional development collaboration to address teaching and learning conditions in history-social science departments. Belmont High School and Lincoln High School, located in the Los Angeles School District as well, will also participate in the project.

The primary goal of this particular project is to close the achievement gap for English Learners and low-achieving student through increased teacher effectiveness and creative use of technology. The grant will affect some 12,371 students in the three urban Los Angeles Unified School District high schools. It is expected that more than 50 teachers will be directly involved.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission has been administering federal funds to improve teacher professional development since 1984. This year the Commission has made awards totaling over \$10 million in grants.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at www.cpec.ca.gov. Regarding this program, you may contact Joan Benton, Claremont International Studies Education Project, at 909-61-8289; or Miranda Ra'oof, Manual Arts High School, at 323-232-1121.